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		CONCERNING A FILING	09/914901						
		IONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP 00/01843 NVENTION	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE MARCH 3, 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED MARCH 6, 1999					
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3.		examination until the expiration of	national examination procedures (35 U.S.C the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C.	U. 3/1(t)) at any time rather than delay 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).					
4.				e 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date					
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7.		A copy of the International Search	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	-)).					
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		a. are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).							
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		d. have not been made and v	,	r					
9.		A translation of the amendments to	the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.	C. 371(c)(3)).					
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11.)					
12.		A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409). A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (e)(5)).							
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13.	X	An Information Disclosure Statem							
14.									
15.	X	A FIRST preliminary amendment.	-						
		A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT pr	reliminary amendment.						
16.		A substitute specification.							
17.		A change of power of attorney and	or address letter.						
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 □ A check in the amount of to cover the above fees is enclosed. ☑ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-4675 in the amount of \$500.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. 								
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4675 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.								
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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner:

Group:

Attorney Docket # 1750

Applicant(s): KLEINDIEK, S.

Serial No.

Filed

For

: ELECTROMECHANICAL DRIVE ELEMENT

COMPRISING A PIEZOELECTRIC ELEMENT

SIMULTANEOUS AMENDMENT

September 5, 2001

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

SIRS:

Simultaneously with filing of the above identified application please amend the same as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel all claims without prejudice.

Substitute the claims attached hereto.

REMARKS:

This Amendment is submitted simultaneously with filing of the above identified application.

With the present Amendment applicant has amended the claims so as to eliminate their multiple dependency.

Consideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Striker Attorney for Applicant(s) Reg. No. 27233

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Claims

- Electromechanical drive element, in particular for the exact positioning of an object in the nanometer to centimeter range, comprising a rotor (11)
 supported in a bearing element and at least one piezoelectric element (18) that can be acted upon with an electric voltage, characterized in that the bearing element (12, 13, 14) comprises at least one rotor receptacle (16) supported on a bearing block (15) in a fashion that allows it to be rotated with limits, which rotor receptacle (16) can be rotated by the expansion and/or contraction—induced by an electric voltage—of the at least one piezoelectric element (18).
 - 2. Drive element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the rotor (11) is supported in the at least one rotor receptacle (16) in a fashion that allows it to be rotated with friction.
 - 3. Drive element according to Claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the at least one rotor receptacle is a bearing ring (16) that is supported on the bearing block (15) by way of multiple fixed members.
- 20 4. Drive element according to [one of the Claims 1 through 3] <u>Claim 1</u>, characterized in that the bearing element (12, 13, 14) has two bearing rings (16) as rotor receptacles supported on bearing blocks (15) by way of multiple fixed members (17) in which the ends (11.1, 11.2) of the rotor (11) are supported, whereby at least one of the bearing rings (16) can be rotated by means of at least one piezoelectric element (18).
 - 5. Drive element according to [one of the Claims 1 through 3] <u>Claim 1</u>, characterized in that the bearing element (12, 13, 14) has a piezoelectrically driven bearing ring (16) to accommodate one end (11.1) of the rotor (11), and a lower-friction abutment for the other end (11.2) of the rotor (11).

- 6. Drive element according to [one of the Claims 2 through 5] <u>Claim 2</u>, characterized in that the friction between the rotor (11) and the at least one rotor receptacle (16) is such that the rotor (11) does not follow relatively rapid revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle (16), but follows relatively slow revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle (16).
- 7. Drive element according to Claim 6, characterized in that the electrodes of the at least one piezoelectric element (18) are connected to a saw-tooth voltage generator that generates alternating slow and rapid expansions and contractions of the at least one piezoelectric element (18) and, therefore, revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle (16), whereby the rotor (11) follows the slow revolutions and does not follow the rapid revolutions.
- 8. Drive element according to [one of the Claims 1 through 7] Claim 1, characterized in that the rotor (11) has tapering ends.
 - 9. Drive element according to Claim 8, characterized in that the rotor (11) has ends designed in the shape of spherical cups.

Claims

- Electromechanical drive element, in particular for the exact positioning of an object in the nanometer to centimeter range, comprising a rotor (11)
 supported in a bearing element and at least one piezoelectric element (18) that can be acted upon with an electric voltage, characterized in that the bearing element (12, 13, 14) comprises at least one rotor receptacle (16) supported on a bearing block (15) in a fashion that allows it to be rotated with limits, which rotor receptacle (16) can be rotated by the expansion and/or contraction—induced by
 an electric voltage—of the at least one piezoelectric element (18).
 - 2. Drive element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the rotor (11) is supported in the at least one rotor receptacle (16) in a fashion that allows it to be rotated with friction.
 - 3. Drive element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the at least one rotor receptacle is a bearing ring (16) that is supported on the bearing block (15) by way of multiple fixed members.
- 20 4. Drive element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the bearing element (12, 13, 14) has two bearing rings (16) as rotor receptacles supported on bearing blocks (15) by way of multiple fixed members (17) in which the ends (11.1, 11.2) of the rotor (11) are supported, whereby at least one of the bearing rings (16) can be rotated by means of at least one piezoelectric element (18).
 - 5. Drive element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the bearing element (12, 13, 14) has a piezoelectrically driven bearing ring (16) to accommodate one end (11.1) of the rotor (11), and a lower-friction abutment for the other end (11.2) of the rotor (11).

- 6. Drive element according to Claim 2, characterized in that the friction between the rotor (11) and the at least one rotor receptacle (16) is such that the rotor (11) does not follow relatively rapid revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle (16), but follows relatively slow revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle (16).
- 7. Drive element according to Claim 6, characterized in that the electrodes of the at least one piezoelectric element (18) are connected to a saw-tooth voltage generator that generates alternating slow and rapid expansions and contractions of the at least one piezoelectric element (18) and, therefore, revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle (16), whereby the rotor (11) follows the slow revolutions and does not follow the rapid revolutions.
- 8. Drive element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the rotor (11) has tapering ends.
 - 9. Drive element according to Claim 8, characterized in that the rotor (11) has ends designed in the shape of spherical cups.

DECLARATION

The undersigned, Dana Scruggs, having an office at 7970 Sunset Cove Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46236, hereby states that she is well acquainted with both the English and German languages and that the attached is a true translation to the best of her knowledge and ability of PCT/EP 00/01843 of KLEINDIEK, S., entitled "Electromechanical Drive Element Comprising a Piezoelectric Element".

The undersigned further declares that the above statement is true; and further, that this statement was made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any patent resulting therefrom.

Sana Scrugar
Dana Scruggs

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using minimal structural expenditure.

ELECTROMECHANICAL DRIVE ELEMENT COMPRISING 1 2 A PIEZOELECTRIC ELEMENT 3 4 ELECTROMECHANICAL DRIVE ELEMENT 5 6 Description 7 The invention concerns an electromechanical drive element, in particular for the 8 9 exact positioning of an object in the nanometer to centimeter range, comprising a rotor supported in a bearing element and at least one piezoelectric element that 10 can be acted upon with an electric voltage. 11 12 EP 0 611 485 B1 makes known a linear motor comprising a piezoelectric element 13 14 that is suited to positioning a tip of a needle-like probe down to a range of the atomic order on a surface of an object. This known positioning element is 15 16 unusual in that the probes can move with high precision in the nanometer range while, at the same time, travelling greater adjusting paths in the centimeter 17 18 range. As such, it avoids the disadvantages of traditional devices such as guide play, reversing play, drift, susceptibility to vibration, or oversizing. 19 20 The known positioning element is only conditionally suited to changing the 21 22 angular position of an object, however. To accomplish this, the positioning 23 elements must be used with corresponding coupling elements to the object to be 24 positioned, such as a probe. Additionally, only small angular adjustments can be 25 achieved. 26 The present invention is based on the object of creating an electromechanical 27 28 drive element that can adjust the angular position of objects with high precision

1 The object is solved according to the invention using an electromechanical drive

element of the type described initially in that the bearing element has at least one

rotor receptacle supported on a bearing block in a fashion that allows it to rotate

with limits, which rotor receptacle can be rotated by the expansion and/or

contraction—induced by an electric voltage—of the at least one piezoelectric

6 element.

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The drive element according to the invention can be produced in very small dimensions, so that disruptions by temperature or external mechanical effects such as impact sounds are extremely minimal.

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The at least one piezoelectric element changes its expansion under the influence of the electric voltage by approximately only one micrometer, so that the motions of the at least one rotor receptacle are extremely minimal. So that the rotor can also travel greater adjusting paths, the rotor can be supported in the at least one rotor receptacle in a manner that allows it to rotate with friction. The friction between the rotor and the at least one rotor receptacle can thereby preferably be such that the rotor does not follow relatively rapid revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle, but follows relatively slow revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle. Therefore, if the rotor receptacle is moved slowly by the piezoelectric element, the rotor follows the motion. If, on the other hand, the rotor receptacle is moved relatively quickly by the piezoelectric element, the rotor can no longer follow the motion due to it inertia. Using successive, alternating slow and rapid motions of the rotor receptacle, a quasi continuous revolution of the rotor in the rotor receptacle can be achieved. The electrodes of the at least one piezoelectric element can be connected to a saw-tooth voltage generator for this purpose, which generates alternating slow and rapid expansions and contractions of the at least one piezoelectric element and, therefore, revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle, whereby the rotor follows the slow revolutions and does not follow the rapid revolutions.

Preferably the at least one rotor receptacle can be a bearing ring that is supported on the bearing block by way of multiple fixed members. The fixed members form flectors, which gives the element high mechanical stability. In traditional arrangements, forces transferred to the piezoelectric element from the outside, in particular forces transverse to its direction of expansion, can destroy the fragile piezoelectric crystal. The flectors formed by the fixed members can absorb such transverse forces, however, so that the piezoelectric crystal is not

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destroyed.

A further advantage of this arrangement lies in the fact that the flectors do not need to guide the parts to be moved and thereby generate restoring forces. The restoring forces of the fixed members only act upon the piezoelectric element and are also very small, because the piezoelectric element expands or contracts by approximately only one micrometer. Since the fixed members do not grip the rotor, arbitrarily big angular adjustments of the rotor can be achieved as well.

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In a further advantageous design, the bearing element can have two bearing rings as rotor receptacles supported on bearing blocks by way of multiple fixed members in which the ends of the rotor are supported, whereby at least one of the bearing rings can be rotated by means of at least one piezoelectric element. It is therefore also possible to drive the rotor from both sides or from one side only, whereby the second bearing ring then serves as a pure abutment. In every case, the two bearing rings form two friction bearings that are pressed against the rotor, which makes it possible for the rotor to rotate without play. Precise adjustments in the nanometer range can also be achieved as a result.

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In another design, the bearing element can have a piezoelectrically driven bearing ring for accommodating one end of the rotor and a lower-friction abutment for the other end of the rotor. Particularly precise motions can be achieved using such a design.

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motions of the bearing ring 16.

1 To reduce the friction, the rotor can also have tapering ends. They can be 2 designed as spherical cups, for example. If the rotor is driven on only one side, it 3 is advantageous if the spherical cup on the abutment has a smaller diameter. 4 5 A preferred embodiment of a drive element according to the invention will be described below in greater detail using the diagram. 6 7 8 Figure 1 shows a side view of a drive element according to the invention. 9 Figure 2 shows an internal view of a bearing element of the drive element from Figure 1. 10 11 12 The drive element 10 from Figure 1 has a rotor 11 with tapering ends 11.1 and 13 11.2 that are supported in two bearing elements 12 and 13. The two bearing elements 12 and 13 are connected with each other by way of braces 14. 14 15 Together they form the bearing element for the rotor 11. The bearing elements 12 and 13 are thereby pressed against the rotor in springy fashion. 16 17 18 In the internal view of the bearing element 12 from Figure 2 it is obvious that it is 19 formed from a bearing block 15, to which a bearing ring 16 is fastened as rotor receptacle by way of three fixed members 17. The rotor 11, which is not shown in 20 21 Figure 2, is then inserted in the bearing ring 16. Using a piezoelectric element 18, 22 the electrodes of which are connected with a saw-tooth voltage generator, for 23 example, in a fashion not shown in greater detail, the bearing ring 16 can be set 24 into rotation by expansion and contraction of the piezoelectric element 18. 25 whereby the fixed elements 17 act as flectors. The rotor 11 is supported in the 26 bearing ring 16 with friction in such a fashion that it can follow slow revolutions of 27 the bearing ring 16, but cannot follow rapid motions due to its inertia. Using slow 28 motions of the bearing ring 16, the rotor can therefore be adjusted in very small 29 angular adjustments, while large angular adjustments or even a continuous

revolution of the rotor 11 can be achieved by alternating between rapid and slow

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2	The drive element 10 shown is therefore suited to positioning an object with very
3	small angular adjustments as well as with large angular adjustments.
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5	The second bearing element 13 can be designed exactly the same as the
6	bearing element 12, but it can also form a simple abutment for the rotor,
7	whereby, advantageously, the friction between the rotor 11 and the abutment 13
8	is less than between the rotor 11 and the bearing ring 16.
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1 Claims 2 3 1. Electromechanical drive element, in particular for the exact positioning of 4 an object in the nanometer to centimeter range, comprising a rotor (11) supported in a bearing element and at least one piezoelectric element (18) that 5 can be acted upon with an electric voltage, characterized in that the bearing 6 7 element (12, 13, 14) comprises at least one rotor receptacle (16) supported on a bearing block (15) in a fashion that allows it to be rotated with limits, which rotor 8 9 receptacle (16) can be rotated by the expansion and/or contraction—induced by an electric voltage—of the at least one piezoelectric element (18). 10 11 Drive element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the rotor (11) is 2. 12 supported in the at least one rotor receptacle (16) in a fashion that allows it to be 13 14 rotated with friction. 15 16 3. Drive element according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the at least one rotor receptacle is a bearing ring (16) that is supported on the bearing block 17 18 (15) by way of multiple fixed members. 19 Drive element according to one of the Claims 1 through 3, characterized in 20 4. that the bearing element (12, 13, 14) has two bearing rings (16) as rotor 21 22 receptacles supported on bearing blocks (15) by way of multiple fixed members (17) in which the ends (11.1, 11.2) of the rotor (11) are supported, whereby at 23 least one of the bearing rings (16) can be rotated by means of at least one 24 25 piezoelectric element (18).

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5. Drive element according to one of the Claims 1 through 3, characterized in that the bearing element (12, 13, 14) has a piezoelectrically driven bearing ring (16) to accommodate one end (11.1) of the rotor (11), and a lower-friction abutment for the other end (11.2) of the rotor (11).

Drive element according to one of the Claims 2 through 5, characterized in that the friction between the rotor (11) and the at least one rotor receptacle (16) is such that the rotor (11) does not follow relatively rapid revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle (16), but follows relatively slow revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle (16).

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7. Drive element according to Claim 6, characterized in that the electrodes of the at least one piezoelectric element (18) are connected to a saw-tooth voltage generator that generates alternating slow and rapid expansions and contractions of the at least one piezoelectric element (18) and, therefore, revolutions of the at least one rotor receptacle (16), whereby the rotor (11) follows the slow revolutions and does not follow the rapid revolutions.

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8. Drive element according to one of the Claims 1 through 7, characterized in that the rotor (11) has tapering ends.

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9. Drive element according to Claim 8, characterized in that the rotor (11) has ends designed in the shape of spherical cups.

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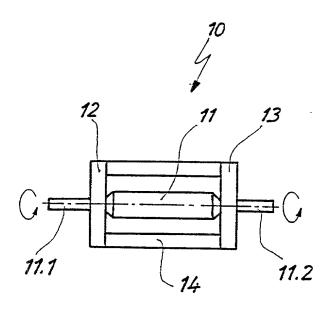


Fig.1

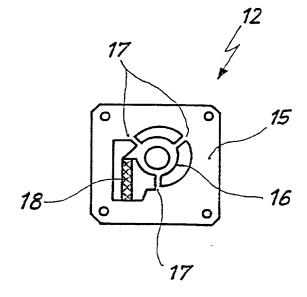


Fig. 2

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT. PATENT APPLICATION

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Stephan KLEINDIEK

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **ELECTROMECHANICAL DRIVE ELEMENT COMPRISING A PIEZOELECTRIC ELEMENT** the specification of which was filed as PCT International Application number PCT/EP 00/01843 on March 3, 2000.

I hereby state that I believe the named inventor or inventors in this Declaration to be the original and first inventor or inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

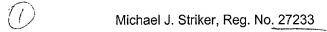
I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365 (b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior foreign application(s):

Priority claimed:

199 09 913.8	GERMANY	MARCH 6, 1999	X	No
(Number)	(Country)	(Date filed)	Yes	
(Number)	(Country)	(Date filed)	Yes	No

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:



Direct all telephone calls to Striker, Striker & Stenby at telephone no.: (631) 549 4700 and address and all correspondence to:

STRIKER, STRIKER & STENBY 103 East Neck Road Huntington, New York 11743 U.S.A.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

1-00

Residence and Date: Signature: 27-AUGI-OF Full Postal Address: Markwiesenstrasse 55 72770 Reutlingen Full Name of First or Sole Inventor: Citizenship: Germany Stephan KLEINDIEK GERMAN. Date: Residence and Signature: Full Postal Address: Full Name of Second Inventor: Citizenship: Residence and Date: Signature: Full Postal Address: Citizenship: Full Name of Third Inventor: Residence and Date: Signature: Full Postal Address: Citizenship: Full Name of Fourth Inventor: Residence and Signature: Date: Full Postal Address: Citizenship: Full Name of Fifth Inventor: Residence and Date: Signature: Full Postal Address: Citizenship: Full Name of Sixth Inventor: Date: Residence and Signature: Full Postal Address: Full Name of Seventh Inventor: Citizenship: Residence and Date: Signature: Full Postal Address: Full Name of Eighth Inventor: Citizenship: Date: Residence and Signature: Full Postal Address: Citizenship: Full Name of Ninth Inventor: